

## THE TIMES.

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SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1890.

## WIDOW'S MITES.

The original Widow's Mite gave occasion to a divine teaching, a most beautiful lesson; that the motive and the self-sacrifice in volved the measure of merit and dignity of an act. That same truth was a long time after uttered handsomely by the greatest of the uninspired: What poor duty can do, noble respects takes in, not merit.

Ever since the first deposit in the treasury, the poor and needy have ceased to be ashamed of the smallness of their gifts, but have, with honorable assurance, endeavored to make their little great, by the earnestness of their love and self-denial and devotion.

Under all circumstances, according to the true measures of manhood, an honest man, the world all over, is king of men for that.

Nevertheless, the widow's mite has been sadly perverted and misapplied. And it really seems as if some were thinking that the smallness of the gift were its merit, and it, small enough, carried with it all the virtue of that gift that touched the divine heart. All who have ever made collections are familiar with the apologetic "My Mite." And the merit of that mite is often only conscious meanness; only that and nothing more; a full purse pleading poverty of soul.

The high honor of the widow's mite is a privilege of a poor estate. The invigorating, tonic inspiring, elevating good that comes of a great gift of everything to Heaven or philanthropy, is almost impossible to the rich. The occasion does not often arise that justifies it. And computations and trusts and dependencies often make it little short of folly to strip one's self of all he has in behalf of a good cause. Indeed, it is rarely that an object is offered calling for the help of a large fortune. And so it is that a most rare thing for a rich man to be allowed the grand privilege of offering the "widow's mite"—all that he has— for Truth's and Goodness' sake.

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High that all the Spirit, the virtue and glory of the "widow's mite."

## NATIONAL WAREHOUSES.

In answer to a communication from the Farmers' Alliance of Milam county, Texas, requesting him to favor the establishment of government warehouses for the storage of agricultural products, and the issue upon them of treasury notes to the extent of 80 per cent. of their value, Representative Mills has returned a reply in which he shows the unpractical character of the plan as a means of affording relief to the agricultural classes, as well as its objectionable nature from a constitutional standpoint, and also in the light of the evil consequences to which it would inevitably lead if once put in operation! He very justly points out that if the government can issue treasury notes on such products of the farms as cotton, wheat, corn, oats and tobacco, it can also do so on bacon, pork, beef, butter, cheese, lard, and hay. The principle can be extended indefinitely. The Treasury notes can, with equal propriety, be issued on every form of manufactures, however foreign to the uses of the government, until finally there would not be a single product of nature or art, which could not be brought forward to be thus mortgaged to the government.

The scheme of storage warehouses originated with Senator Vance, of North Carolina, and so wild did it seem at the time he advanced it in his well known bill introduced in the Senate in the course of last winter, that it was regarded as a jest, by which the Senator sought to show the impractical, fallacious and unjust character of the Windom bill, which provided for the issue of treasury notes upon silver bullion. Nothing reveals more clearly the extent of the depression in agriculture than the serious view, which so many branches of the Farmers' Alliance have taken of this plan of storage warehouses. It is wholly chimerical and visionary. The condition of the farming classes can only be benefited by the intervention of three things: First, by the reduction of tariff, which will lower the cost of the various articles which they are compelled to buy to meet their personal and business wants; and, secondly, by the increase of the population of this country, which will extend the domestic market for the products of the soil; and, thirdly, by the gradual contraction of the area of land in the United States under cultivation.

The first of these, the reduction of the tariff, must inevitably be brought about by the agitation of the question now going on, which must only increase in force with the progress of every year, until the object it has in view is fully and finally accomplished. That the population of the United States will continue to swell enormously in value as assurred as any future event can possibly be, and that there is every probability that the value of lands and farm products will rise in consequence of the area of cultivation in this country having reached its limit, has been recently shown upon the strength of statistics that it is impossible to refute. The farming classes of America have only to wait to be blessed with ample prosperity. They should not mar their own future by seeking to realize for their private benefit, schemes that must necessarily bankrupt both the character and the purse of the National Government.

A GOOD EXAMPLE IMITATED.

There occurred in the House of Representatives on Friday, an incident which throws much light on the beneficial influence which a single public spirited and conscientious exemplar in political life will exert over those who have not the strength of will to take the initiative themselves, in adhering firmly to their convictions in their general course of conduct. THE TIMES had reason, a few days ago, to command the indepen-

## THE EPISCOPAL COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA.

Meeting to be Held in Fredericksburg, May 21st—Some of the Matters That Will Likely Come Up for Consideration.

(Written for THE TIMES.)

The announcement of the meeting of the annual convention of the Diocese of Virginia on Wednesday, May 21st, in St. George's Church, Fredericksburg, will bring a flood of memories of past days to a large number of our citizens. The old Virginia Council was a notable gathering.

His many action was on yesterday initiated by a large number of Republican members, who, but for him, would not probably have had the boldness to take a position in opposition to the wishes of their party associates. The object of attack, in this instance, was the increase in the duty on lamp chimerries, under the terms of the bill, from 45 per cent. ad valorem to a rate equivalent to between 50 and 60 percent ad valorem. The attack was led by Mr. Henderson of Iowa, one of the ablest speakers in Congress, and was sustained by such men as Butterworth, of Ohio; Candler, of Massachusetts, (Lind) of Minnesota, and Hopkins, of Illinois, all leaders of great prominence in their party organization. When the issue was brought to a vote, the new duty as formulated by the Ways and Means Committee, was sustained by a narrow majority of five.

The account of the scene, when the vote was being taken, is not without interest and significance. It is reported that Mr. McKinley took his place as a teller, and the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee went scouting for loyal Republicans to crush the revolt. Speaker Reed was hurried in from the members' lobby to tame with his presence the recalcitrants. He stood almost beside Major McKinley and reviewed the line, and each man, as he passed by, knew that his reward or punishment would be meted out just as he cast his vote on this occasion.

It is highly honorable to the Republican members of the revolt, that under the inspiration of Mr. Butterworth's participation in this action, they stood firmly by their convictions in spite of the trying character of the circumstances through which they had to pass.

**NOMINATION OF CARLISLE.** The nomination of Mr. Carlisle by the Democratic caucus of the Kentucky Legislature on Friday, to fill the vacancy brought about by the death of Mr. Beck, will be a cause for general congratulation among the members of the Democratic party at large as well as among those who are interested in the maintenance of the very highest standards in the representation of the people in the national councils. For many reasons, it is to be regretted that so able and well informed a man should withdraw from the lower branch of Congress. Mr. Carlisle has long been a leader in the lower house, who has commanded the utmost confidence of his party, and conferred upon it services of the very highest value. Few men in the whole history of national politics have risen to greater distinction or exercised such profound and far-reaching influence as a representative of the people, and very properly so, for there have been representatives of the people, who have confined themselves to such a degree of profligacy, disinterestedness, fairness, urbanity, dignity, intellectual power and antenous, and accurate, profound and comprehensive information upon all questions of public policy as John G. Carlisle.

Prominently conspicuous and useful as he has been in the House, the prediction can be safely ventured that he will be still more prominent among the members of the Senate in some respects, better suited for the display of his abilities than the House. Mr. Carlisle is not a partisan in the strict sense of the term. He is a leader of the party in the sense, for instance, that he has, to far, calm and philosophical in the general composition of his mind and character for a party leader.

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